

We claim:

1. A method for preventing lesions caused by a virus of the Herpesviridae or Poxviridae family, said method comprising topically applying a composition consisting essentially of a C1, a C2, or a C3 alcohol or a C2, C3, or C4 diol, and a sufficient amount of an acid to adjust the pH of the composition to 4.6 or less, wherein said composition is applied during symptoms of pain, itching, burning, or tingling.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, 1-propanol, and 2-propanol.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of 2,3-butanediol, 1,2-butanediol, 1,3-butanediol, and 1,4-butanediol.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said alcohol is ethanol.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said acid is an organic acid.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said organic acid selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid, lactic acid, succinic acid, malic acid, citric acid and acetic acid.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said acid is an inorganic acid.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said acid is hydrochloric acid.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of said composition is 2.45.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of said alcohol in said composition is between about 0.2% and 12.5% by volume.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus resides in the dermis or epidermis of a human or animal infected by said virus.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus is herpes simplex 1.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus is herpes simplex 2.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus is Varicella-zoster virus.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus is molluscum contagiosum.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is a preparation selected from the group consisting of a tincture, gel, ointment, cream, salve, lotion, lip balm, foam, spray and aerosol.
17. A method for preventing lesions caused by a virus of the Herpesviridae or Poxviridae family, said method comprising topically applying a composition consisting essentially of an alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, 2,3-butanediol, 1,2-butanediol, 1,3-butanediol, and 1,4-butanediol, and a sufficient amount of an acid to adjust the pH of the composition to

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the pH of said composition is 2.45.
19. The method of claim 17, wherein the concentration of said alcohol in said composition is between about 0.2% and 12.5% by volume.
20. The method of claim 17, wherein said virus resides in the dermis or epidermis of a human or animal infected by said virus.
21. The method of claim 17, wherein said virus is herpes simplex 1.
22. The method of claim 17, wherein said virus is herpes simplex 2.
23. The method of claim 17, wherein said virus is Varicella-zoster virus.
24. The method of claim 17, wherein said virus is molluscum contagiosum.
25. The method of claim 17, wherein said composition is a topical preparation selected from the group consisting of a tincture, gel, ointment, cream, salve, lotion, lip balm, foam, spray and aerosol.
26. A method for preventing lesions caused by a virus of the Herpesviridae or Poxviridae family, said method comprising topically applying a composition consisting essentially of 10% by volume ethanol and 0.6% by weight glycolic acid, wherein said composition is applied during symptoms of pain, itching, burning, or tingling.

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